

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Thoothukudi District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2011
(iii)	Name of the District	Thoothukudi
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	27 July 2011-14 August

1.	<p><u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u> Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?</p>			<p>Students, Teachers & Parents</p>																				
	<p>The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in all schools.</p>																							
2.	<p><u>TRENDS:</u> Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">No.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Details</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Day previous to date of visit</th> <th style="text-align: center;">On the day of visit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">i.</td> <td>Enrolment</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ii.</td> <td>No. of children attending the school on the day of visit</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">iii.</td> <td>No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register</td> <td style="text-align: center;">91%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">iv.</td> <td>No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit</td> <td style="text-align: center;">70% (approximate value)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit	On the day of visit	i.	Enrolment	95%	95%	ii.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	95%	95%	iii.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	91%	91%	iv.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	70% (approximate value)	95%	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.</p>
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3.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (i) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in all schools.	
	(ii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
	The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained in all schools. The quantity of food grains supplied was as per the marked indicated weight in 23 schools. In the remaining 17 schools, the quantity of food grains supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight.	
	(iii) Is the food grains delivered at the school?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
The food grains are delivered at the school in most cases.		
4.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (i) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed.	
	(ii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme.	

	(iii) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The cooking cost is paid by banking channel (ATM) in the case of 38 schools.	
5.	<u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u> Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	Observations
	No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI. In the case of 6 schools, the children were seated inside the classroom. In the remaining schools, the children were seated on the verandah while having their food.	
6.	<u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u> (i) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	Weekly display of menu was found in the case of 28 schools. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. The organizer decides the menu.	
7.	(ii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix up of vegetables added to the sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables.	
	(iii) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

	The daily menu includes rice dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.	
8.	<u>QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u> Feedback from children on	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	a) Quality of meal:	
	The quality of meal is good in 28 schools while it was average in 12 schools. In the case of PUMS, Vedanatham, most children are dropping out of the MDM scheme as the quality of food grains is bad. In the case of PUMS Esavankulam, the eggs provided had blackish spots on them. The organizer was still giving the children these very eggs without checking whether they are edible or not.	
	b) Quantity of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Most children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}	Observations of Investigation during MDM service	
Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.		
<u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u>	Teachers, Students, School Record	
(i) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?		
Yes.		
(ii) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record	
Health check up happens yearly once in most schools, Micronutrients are provided once a year PHC/HM administers the medicines.		
(iii) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	Teachers, Students, School Record	
Only 30 schools in Thoothukudi District have maintained a health card.		

9.	<p><u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u></p> <p>(i) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal.</p>	
	<p>(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>In most schools, the number is adequate. PUMS Esavankulam did not have a helper. In the case of PUMS, Naina Pillai Street, Udangudi, there is only an organiser in charge who is maintaining the accounts. This person comes to this school in the morning and works for another school in the afternoon. PUPS, Seerudaiyarpuram does not have a cook while MMS, Sivanthakulam, does not have a helper. In the case of PUPS, Erattaikinaru, and PUPS, Vadakku Seval, the organiser in charge was not available on the day of the visit.</p>	
	<p>(iii) What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5500-6000 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2500-2640 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1500-1900 pm.</p>	
	<p>(iv) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in most cases.</p>	

	<p>(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of SC, BC, and MBC.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></p> <p>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</p> <p>(a) Constructed and in use (b) Constructed but not in use (c) Under construction (d) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (e) Not sanctioned</p> <p>Any other (specify)</p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>

	<p>The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of PUPS, Padarnthapuli, the kitchen shed cum store is damaged. The stocks are thereby stored inside the class room though the food is cooked in the damaged kitchen cum store. • In the case of Santhana Sama Ms, Madathuvilai, the store room is rat infested and the roof is damaged. • In the case of PUPS, Anavarathanallur, PUMS, Thittankulam , Nadar Ms, Kovilpatti, PUMS, Vedanatham, PUPS, Erattaikinaru, PUMS, Srivaikuntam , PUPS Thaikka St, Kayalpattinam, PUPS, West Car St, Toruchendur, Santhana Sama Ms, Madathuvilai, PUMS, Naina Pillai Street, Udangudi, TDTAMS, Vilathikulam, and PUPS, Munthirithottam the stocks are stored in the Samuthaya hall. • PUMS, Chidambarampatti, and PUPS, Ammalthoppu, the kitchen shed cum store is damaged. <p>Note: In the PUPS, Veeransundaralingan Nagar, the HM has said that the SSA Officers were ready to sanction toilets for the girls and office room for the HM. But the HM has politely refused the offer because the VEC is corrupt and might use the funds for its own benefit.</p>	
11.	<p>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</p>
12.	<p>In the event of non availability of a proper kitchen shed cum store, the food is cooked in the open space while the grains are stored in the Samuthaya hall.</p>	
13.	<p>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</p>	<p>-do-</p> <p>Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme</p>

	11 schools reported that the utensils used for cooking are inadequate.	
14.	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
	Firewood. There was no instance of gas based cooking observed in Thoothukudi schools.	
15.	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> i. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	
	i. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	observation
	No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. Usually children rinse their plates before and after the meal. This ensures that hands are also washed before and after eating.	
	i. Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?	observation
	Yes	
	v. Conservation of water?	Observation
	No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.	
vi. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?	observation	
No hazardous conditions observed.		
16.	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM.	

17.	INSPECTION & SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The mid day meal has been inspected by the District and Block level officer in most schools. There has been no instance of visit by State Level Officers. There have been no visits by the officials in the case of PUMS, Mela Sriyanthoor, PUPS, Vadakku Seval, TDTAMS, Vilathikulam, and MMS, Sivanthakulam.	
18.	IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Theni district:

- In the case of PUMS, Vedanatham, most children are dropping out of the MDM scheme as the quality of food grains is bad.
- In the case of PUMS Esavankulam, the eggs provided had blackish spots on them. The organizer was still giving the children these very eggs without checking whether they are edible or not.
- PUMS Esavankulam did not have a helper.
- In the case of PUMS, Naina Pillai Street, Udangudi, there is only an organiser in charge who is maintaining the accounts. This person comes to this school in the morning and works for another school in the afternoon.
- PUPS, Seerudaiyarpuram does not have a cook while MMS, Sivanthakulam, does not have a helper.
- In the case of PUPS, Erattaikinaru, and PUPS, Vadakku Seval, the organiser in charge was not available on the day of the visit.

- In the case of PUPS, Padarnthapuli, the kitchen shed cum store is damaged. The stocks are thereby stored inside the class room though the food is cooked in the damaged kitchen cum store.
- In the case of Santhana Sama Ms, Madathuvilai, the store room is rat infested and the roof is damaged.
- In the case of PUPS, Anavarathanallur, PUMS, Thittankulam , Nadar Ms, Kovilpatti, PUMS, Vedanatham, PUPS, Erattaikinaru, PUMS, Srivaikuntam , PUPS Thaikka St, Kayalpattinam, PUPS, West Car St, Toruchendur, Santhana Sama Ms, Madathuvilai, PUMS, Naina Pillai Street, Udangudi, TDTAMS, Vilathikulam, and PUPS, Munthirithottam the stocks are stored in the Samuthaya hall.
- PUMS, Chidambarampatti, and PUPS, Ammalthoppu, the kitchen shed cum store is damaged.
- In the PUPS, Veeransundaralingan Nagar, the HM has said that the SSA Officers were ready to sanction toilets for the girls and office room for the HM. But the HM has politely refused the offer because the VEC is corrupt and might use the funds for its own benefit.
- In PUMS Esavankulam, there was water scarcity observed with the locals not allowing the school to use water from the local water pump.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Kanyakumari District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2011
(iii)	Name of the District	Kanyakumari
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	15/9/2011-30/9/2011

Note: There is no Mid Day Meals Scheme in GTRPS Vattaparai. The data on MDM is provided only for 39 schools.

19.	<u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u> Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?			Students, Teachers & Parents
	The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in all schools.			
20.	<u>TRENDS:</u> Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*			School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.
	No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit	On the day of visit
	ii.	Enrolment	98%	98%
	ii.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	83%
	x.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	85%	85%
	x.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	63%	95%
	*approximate value...not verified			

21.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (iv) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in all schools.	
	(v) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
	The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained in all schools except in GPS Villikuri. The quantity of food grains supplied was as per the marked indicated weight in 15 schools. In the remaining 24 schools, the quantity of food grains supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight.	
	(vi) Is the food grains delivered at the school?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
The food grains are delivered at the school in 38 schools, except in GPS Chanalkarai. The food grains are delivered in Kadayal Govt Hr Sec school. The HM of Chanalkarai receives food grains from the MDM organiser of Kadayal school.		
22.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (iv) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time in most schools. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed. This information could not be verified in the case of St.Antony's P.S-Surulacode as the organizer was on leave on the day of the MI teams visit.	

	(v) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the implementation of the scheme.	
	(vi) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The cooking cost is paid by banking channel (ATM) in the case of 38 schools. This information could not be verified in the case of St.Antony's P.S-Surulacode as the organizer was on leave on the day of the MI teams visit.	
23.	<u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u> Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	Observations
	No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI. In the case of 10 schools, the children were seated inside the classroom while having food. In the remaining schools, the children were seated on the verandah.	
24.	<u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u> (iv) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	Out of 39 schools, weekly display of menu was found in the case of 12 schools. The remaining 29 schools did not have a weekly display of the menu. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. The schools follow the menu decided by the Government of Tamilnadu.	

25.	(v) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix up of vegetables added to the sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables.	
	(vi) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The daily menu includes rice dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.	
26.	<u>QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u> Feedback from children on	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	c) Quality of meal:	
	The quality of meal was average in almost all schools.	
	d) Quantity of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	All children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}	Observations of Investigation during MDM service	
Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.		
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u> (v) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	

	(vi) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	<p>Out of 39 schools, health check up happens yearly once in 29 schools, twice a year in 7 schools, thrice a year in GPS, Puthalam, and GPS, Vadiveeswaram.</p> <p>Health check did not happen in GPS-Thottamalai as this is a forest area and is inaccessible. There is no staff recruited for implementing MDM in this school. The school only has an in charge organizer who comes to the school occasionally. A local lady has been appointed who takes care of the cooking. There is no kitchen shed in the school and no water connection also.</p> <p>PHC administers the medicines in most schools.</p>	
	(vii) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Only 28 schools in Kanyakumari District have maintained a health card.	
27.	<u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u> (ii) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal. In 22 schools the cooks and helpers engaged in the schools was not as per GOI norms.	
	(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

<p>In the case of schools in Kanyakumari district it has been observed that the organisers work for two schools shuttling work between the two. In some schools there are no permanent staff appointed for MDM. The following paragraphs provides details of the inconsistencies in the working of the cooks, organisers and helpers.</p> <p>In the case of GMS Thucklay, both the cook and the organiser is in charge of MDM. The organiser is appointed in another school also and she shuttles between these two schools.</p> <p>In the case of GPS Villikuri, the helper post is vacant. The food is cooked for two schools, GPS Villikuri and GHS Villikuri. Food is prepared in GPS Villikuri and is carried to GHS Villikuri.</p> <p>In the case of GPS Chanalkarai, there are no staffs recruited for MDM. There is a local lady for cooking food. Food grains are delivered in Kadayal school and the HM receives the food grains and cooking cost from Kadayal school that is about 6km away.</p> <p>In the case of P.Jeevanantham -GPS-Boothapandi, the organizer is not appointed permanently but is in charge for two schools including this school.</p> <p>In the case of Govt.P.S-Ezhudesapattu, there are no separate staffs for this school. There is no kitchen and store room available. The MDM staff of the school in the next campus prepares food and provides to this school.</p> <p>PS-Thottamalai - No staffs has been recruited for implementing MDM in this school. An organizer- in-charge is taking care of implementing MDM in this school. The organizer will come to school occasionally because the school is in a forest area. A local old lady is in charge of cooking and providing food for children.</p>	
<p>(iii)What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5800 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2000-2900 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1700-1900 pm.</p>	

	<p>(viii) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in most cases.</p>		
	<p>(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of OBC and SC.</p>		
<p>28.</p>	<p><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></p> <p>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</p> <p>(f) Constructed and in use (g) Constructed but not in use (h) Under construction (i) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (j) Not sanctioned</p> <p>Any other (specify)</p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>

The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:

- GMS-Esanthimangalam had a damaged kitchen shed.
- G.Rub.M.S-Keeriparai did not have a kitchen shed. The Rubber board has provided a room for the cooking and storage purposes.
- In GPS, Rajakkamanagalam, the cooking is done in open space.
- In the case of GMS, Melakrishnanputhoor, the kitchen shed is damaged.
- In the case of GPS Thalakulam the kitchen shed is damaged.
- In the case of GPS, Chukankadai, the food is cooked in one room of the school building.
- In the case of GPS, Eraniel (Girls), there is no separate kitchen shed for the primary school. Food is cooked in a common kitchen for Primary and Hr.Sec. School.
- GPS-Thottamalai is a one classroom school. It does not have a separate kitchen shed. The food is cooked inside a small room (partition of the classroom).
- In the case of Rubber C.MS-Chittar, the Rubber Board has provided a room for cooking. The room provided by the Rubber Board is not of good quality.
- In the case of GPS-Sivalogam, there is no separate kitchen shed. The food is cooked in a room in a private rubber estate staff quarters.
- In the case of Govt.P.S-Ezhudesapattu, there is no kitchen and store room. The food is cooked in a school in the next campus.

NOTE: The MI team is of the opinion that staff needs to be appointed separately for MDM in the case of primary and upper primary schools. This would ensure greater credibility and accountability of the MDM scheme.

29.	In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation
	In the event of non availability of a proper kitchen shed cum store, the food is cooked in the open space as in GPS, Rajakkamanagalam, sometimes one room of the school building is used for cooking (as in GPS, Chukankadai), sometimes the food is cooked in a different building (as in GPS-Sivalogam and Govt.P.S-Ezhudesapattu).	
30.	Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?	-do-
	Water for cooking and drinking is not available in GPS-Thottamalai and GPS-Chanalkarai. Well water is used in GPS-Chanalkarai. Tap water is used in the case of GPS-Thottamalai.	
31.	Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?	Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme
	11 schools reported that the utensils used for cooking are inadequate.	
32.	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
	Firewood. There was no instance of gas based cooking observed in Kanyakumari schools.	
33.	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> iv. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	
	v. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	observation
	No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. Usually children rinse their plates before and after the meal. This ensures that hands are also washed before and after eating.	
	vi. Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?	observation
	Yes	
	vii. Conservation of water?	Observation

	No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.	
	ii. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?	observation
	No hazardous conditions observed.	
34.	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM.	
35.	INSPECTION & SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The mid day meal has been inspected by the Block level officers in most schools. In the case of GMS Esanthimangalam, the District level officer has inspected the MDM. Inspection by the District level officer has not been recorded in any other school. There has been no instance of visit by State Level Officers in any schools in Kanyakumari district.	
36.	IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Kanyakumari district:

- In GPS Chanalkarai. The food grains are delivered in Kadayal Govt Hr Sec school. The HM of Chanalkarai receives food grains from the MDM organiser of Kadayal school.
- Health check did not happen in GPS-Thottamalai as this is a forest area and is inaccessible. There is no staff recruited for implementing MDM in this school. The school only has an in charge organizer who comes to the school occasionally. A local lady has been appointed who takes care of the cooking. There is no kitchen shed in the school and no water connection also.
- In the case of schools in Kanyakumari district it has been observed that the organisers work for two schools shuttling work between the two. In some schools there are no permanent staff appointed for MDM. The following paragraphs provides details of the inconsistencies in the working of the cooks, organisers and helpers.
- In the case of GMS Thucklay, both the cook and the organiser is in charge of MDM. The organiser is appointed in another school also and she shuttles between these two schools.
- In the case of GPS Villikuri, the helper post is vacant. The food is cooked for two schools, GPS Villikuri and GHS Villikuri. Food is prepared in GPS Villikuri and is carried to GHS Villikuri.
- In the case of GPS Chanalkarai, there are no staffs recruited for MDM. There is a local lady for cooking food. Food grains are delivered in Kadayal school and the HM receives the food grains and cooking cost from Kadayal school that is about 6km away.
- In the case of P.Jeevanantham -GPS-Boothapandi, the organizer is not appointed permanently but is in charge for two schools including this school.
- In the case of Govt.P.S-Ezhudesapattu, there are no separate staffs for this school. There is no kitchen and store room available. The MDM staff of the school in the next campus prepares food and provides to this school.
- PS-Thottamalai - No staffs has been recruited for implementing MDM in this school. An organizer- in-charge is taking care of implementing MDM in this school. The organizer will come to school occasionally because the school is in a forest area. A local old lady is in charge of cooking and providing food for children.
- GMS-Esanthimangalam had a damaged kitchen shed.
- G.Rub.M.S-Keeriparai did not have a kitchen shed. The Rubber board has provided a room for the cooking and storage purposes.

- In GPS, Rajakkamanagalam, the cooking is done in open space.
- In the case of GMS, Melakrishnanputhooor, the kitchen shed is damaged.
- In the case of GPS Thalakulam the kitchen shed is damaged.
- In the case of GPS, Chukankadai, the food is cooked in one room of the school building.
- In the case of GPS, Eraniel (Girls), there is no separate kitchen shed for the primary school. Food is cooked in a common kitchen for Primary and Hr.Sec. School.
- GPS-Thottamalai is a one classroom school. It does not have a separate kitchen shed. The food is cooked inside a small room (partition of the classroom).
- In the case of Rubber C.MS-Chittar, the Rubber Board has provided a room for cooking. The room provided by the Rubber Board is not of good quality.
- In the case of GPS-Sivalogam, there is no separate kitchen shed. The food is cooked in a room in a private rubber estate staff quarters.
- In the case of Govt.P.S-Ezhudesapattu, there is no kitchen and store room. The food is cooked in a school in the next campus.
- Water for cooking and drinking is not available in GPS-Thottamalai and GPS-Chanalkarai. Well water is used in GPS-Chanalkarai. Tap water is used in the case of GPS-Thottamalai.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Theni District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2011
(iii)	Name of the District	Theni
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	July 5th to July 20th

37.	<u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u> Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?			Students, Teachers & Parents	
	The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in all schools.				
38.	<u>TRENDS:</u> Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*			School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.	
	No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit		On the day of visit
	ii.	Enrolment	90%		90%
	v.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	85%		85%
	v.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	68%		68%
	vi.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	69%	51%	
*approximate value..not verified					
39.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (vii) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?			School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.	

	<p>All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in 14 schools.</p> <p>Example in the case of PUMS Aramanaiputhur, 40-57 kg rice was found less, in the case of PUMS Sarathupatty, 4-7kg dal was found less than the marked indicated weight.</p>	
	<p>(viii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
	<p>The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained.</p>	
	<p>(ix) Is the food grains delivered at the school?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
	<p>The food grains are delivered at the school in most cases. In the case of GKPS Suriliyar, the food grains are delivered in the village. The organiser brings it to the school.</p> <p>A special mention needs to be made about PUPS Indiranagar, (Myladumparai block) which is under the EG scheme (Education Guarantee scheme). Under this scheme 50 kg rice is provided through the collector to the school every month. But the school does not have an organiser, cook, or even a store room. There is no record of the stock also.</p>	
40.	<p><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></p> <p>(vii) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed.</p>	
	<p>(viii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>

	<p>In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme.</p> <p>In the case of PUPS Arockiamatha nagar, no fund has been released from 20th Dec 2010 up till now.</p>	
	<p>(ix) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>The cooking cost is usually paid by banking channel (ATM).</p>	
41.	<p><u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u> Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?</p>	<p>Observations</p>
	<p>No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI.</p>	
42.	<p><u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u> (vii) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>Weekly display of menu was found in the case of 7 schools. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. Often, the Government decides the menu, sometimes the Collector and sometimes the BDO.</p>	
43.	<p>(viii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix up of vegetables added to the sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables.</p>	

	(ix) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The daily menu includes rice dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.	
44.	<u>QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u> Feedback from children on	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	e) Quality of meal:	
	The quality of meal is between average to good. In the case of PUPS Sarathupatty, eggs are provided without peeling off the skin. In the case of PUMS Kallupatty, rice was given without sambar. About 60 eggs were not boiled. The organiser of this school was on leave.	
	f) Quantity of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Most children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
	c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u> (ix) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	
	(x) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record

	<p>Health check up happens yearly once in most schools, though there were 3 schools that claimed that check up happens 3-4 times every year (PUPS Melargudalur, PUPS Chelayeepuram, PUMS Sarathupatty). There were 3 schools that did not have a health check up done. These include ADWPS Theni, MPL Primary school, Pallikottai (health check up happened two years back) and PUMS Ganesapuram.</p> <p>Micronutrients are provided once a year (except in case of PUMS Mettupatty). PHC/HM administers the medicines. GH administered the medicines in the case of MPLPS Main. In the case of PUPS Subulapuram, the students apparently administered the medicines.</p>	
	<p>(xi) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?</p>	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Only 7 schools in Theni District have maintained a health card. PUMS Soolapuram has claimed that the new health card has not reached yet.	
45.	<p><u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u></p> <p>(iii) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)</p>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal. In 14 schools the cook is appointed by the collector. In the case of GTR-PS Kannakarai, there is no MDM scheme. Adidraavidar Welfare Board provides the funds. The school is a residential school and the children are provided food 3 times a day.	
	<p>(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</p>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In most schools, the number is adequate. But PUPS Mettupatty did not have a organiser. There has been no inspection by the higher officials in this school. In PUPS Arockiamatha nagar, there is no permanent organiser and cook. The organiser of PUMS Pudukottai is in charge of this school also. the stock for MDM is available only in PUMS Pudukottai.	

	(iii)What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5700-6000 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2400-2700 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1800-1900 pm.	
	(xii) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in most cases.	
	(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of SC, BC, and MBC.	
46.	<u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u> Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store: (k) Constructed and in use (l) Constructed but not in use (m) Under construction (n) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (o) Not sanctioned Any other (specify)	School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.

	<p>The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In PUPS Keelachockanathapuram, old damaged building is being used as the store room. • GKPS Muthaiyanchetti does not have a store/kitchen of its own. Food is being cooked in GKPS Muthaiyanchetti higher secondary school. • In PUPS Samandipuram, there is no kitchen shed cum store. Food is being cooked in another school in Ankurpalayam and being brought to this school. • In GKPS Suruliyar, the kitchen shed is made of asbestos sheet. The monkeys have damaged the sheets and hence the stock is stored in the classrooms. • Though PUPS Thamaraiikulam has a kitchen, it does not have a store. The quality of the buildings is poor and hence the stock is stored in the classrooms. • In PUPS Arockiamathanagar, there is no pucca kitchen shed cum store. The food is cooked in the open and does not have a permanent organizer and cook. 	
47.	<p>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the foodgrains /other ingredients are being stored?</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</p>
	<p>In the event of non availability of a proper kitchen shed cum store, the food is cooked either in the open space or in other schools.</p>	
48.	<p>Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?</p>	<p>-do-</p>
	<p>Potable water is available for cooking and drinking purposes in most schools. Public water service for drinking purpose is supplied by the Panchayat or by the Municipality.</p>	
49.	<p>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</p>	<p>Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme</p>

	Most schools reported that the utensils are adequate. Exceptions were reported in the schools at PUPS Kotakkudi, PUPS Upparpatty and PUPS Chelayeepuram.	
50.	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
	Firewood. Gas based cooking was observed in PUMS Upparpatty.	
51.	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> vii. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	
	i. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	observation
	No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. Usually children rinse their plates before and after the meal. This ensures that hands are also washed before and after eating.	
	c. Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?	observation
	Yes	
	ii. Conservation of water?	Observation
	No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.	
ii. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?	observation	
No hazardous conditions observed.		
52.	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. Most schools had no roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM, exceptions being the schools at, ADWPS Amachiyapuram, GKMS Pullakapatty, and PUMS Kallupatty.	

53.	INSPECTION & SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The mid day meal has been inspected by the block level officer in most schools. There has been no inspection in 4 schools which include ADWPS Amachiyapuram, PUMS Kurangani, PUMS Kallupatty, and PUMS Nagayagoundanpatty. There are no records of any inspection in the case of PUMS KKpatty and PUMS Samandipuram.	
54.	IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

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Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Theni district:

1. PUPS Indiranagar, (Myladumparai block) is under the EG scheme (Education Guarantee scheme). Under this scheme 50 kg rice is provided through the collector to the school every month. But the school does not have an organiser, cook, or even a store room. There is no record of the stock also.
2. In the case of PUPS Indiranagar (Cumbum) , the school does not have a MDM scheme in this school but provided by Kudalur school.
3. In the case of GTR-PS Kannakarai, there is no MDM scheme. Adidravidar welfare board provides the funds. The school is a residential school and the children are provided food 3 times a day.
4. In PUPS Arockiamatha nagar, there is no permanent organiser and cook. The organiser of PUMS Pudukottai is in charge of this school also. The stock for MDM is available only in PUMS Pudukottai.

5. PUPS Mettupatty does not have an organiser. There has been no inspection by the higher officials in this school.
6. GKPS Suruliyar has a kitchen cum store made of asbestos which is in dilapidated condition. The monkeys have damaged the building and now the stock is being stored in classrooms.
